WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 NOVEMBER 1994

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

Photo by Karen O'Neal

Future permanent exhibit room becomes a temporary conference room with addition of card table and chairs.

KAREN'S COLUMN
BUILDING PERMIT APPLIED FOR; TEAM EFFORT BY CONTRACTORS TO INSTALL MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

We are ready to make some changes to the interior of 500 North Main!

Two sets of sealed drawings were delivered to the City of Ann Arbor Building Department on October 3, and an application was made for a building permit to perform the scope of work on the museum's interior.

We have defined and are now ready to install the heating, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, fire suppression and burglar alarm systems.

This has come about through the team effort of the Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors Association, Quinn Evans--Architects, K & F Electric, Al Walk Plumbing, Neil Adams, Electrical Engineer, Robertson Morrison, Inc., Heating and Cooling and Ron Dean of Thistle Ceramics.

(Mr. Dean called and asked if he could donate some ceramic tile work to our project. Before too long you'll be able to see his handiwork on the floor and counter tops in the rest room. We really appreciate his generous offer.)

Though we will be getting a lot of this work done through in-kind donations, there are a number of materials and services that we need to pay for, and that is where your donations have made the difference.

All of you who have supported the museum restoration with a contribution are very much a part of the team that will make the transformation of the interior of this house possible.

If you have an idea about how you could help us with any of the remaining work that needs to be done, or if you would care to make a donation, we hope to hear from you!

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

ANN ARBOR RAILROAD PROGRAM, PART II, SET NOVEMBER 13

Daniel McClary, a local attorney and railroad historian, will present Part II of a slide talk about the Ann Arbor Railroad at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 13, in the multi-purpose room of the Ann Arbor Public Library.

Dan talked about Ann Arbor's namesake railroad to a large WCHS audience in September 1993 but he had collected so much information in his extensive research that he was unable to finish his presentation in the time available.

So, railroad fans, we invited him back. He plans to begin in the 1890s where he left off and continue from there.

Incidentally, the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club will have an exhibit in the display cases just outside the multi-purpose room during November.

WCHS HAS 42.5% OF POINTS FOR ACID FREE BOXES

Thanks to all of you who are saving Bill Knapp's Restaurant points, WCHS has 42.5% (5,894) of its goal of 13,860 points for acid free boxes and paper to store textiles in its collection.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time, with one point given for each dollar spent. Please keep collecting and give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

COMING PROGRAMS LISTED

February 19, 1995: A.P. Marshall, *"Impacting the Future--Some Blacks To Be Remembered,"* Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 North Huron, 2 p.m.

March 19, 1995,: Ted Micka, *"Barn Restoration in Washtenaw and Neighboring Counties,"* Bentley Library, University of Michigan, 2 p.m.

April 23, 1995,: Grace Shackman, *"The Evolution of Downtown Ann Arbor,"* Ann Arbor Public Library Multi-Purpose Room, 2 p.m.

All programs on Sunday, none planned in December or January.

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP:

EARLY SETTLER THOUGHT IT DESERVED THAT NAME

One of the few early settlers of German extraction came up with the name "Superior" for the township, Ina Hanel told the WCHS October audience, meeting at the Superior Township Hall.

Ms. Hanel recently conducted an Historic Resources Inventory of the township which was published under sponsorship of the Superior Land Conservancy.

The inventory was part of her master's thesis in the historic preservation program of Eastern Michigan University. She received her master's degree this past summer.

"I'm here to tell you a little bit about what I learned in doing this inventory.

"The Superior Land Conservancy came to E.M.U. to Dr. Marshall A. McLennan, my advisor, asking for someone to do the project.

"It took one-and-a-half years, working intensively. I met a lot of people, some here today. I had a lot of fun with it. I would like to emphasize this isn't the end of it. There is a lot more information out there.

"Since the Conservancy is running out of copies of the Inventory, they would like to re-issue it with some changes and additions. So, if you have some information I'm very much interested in hearing about it.

"The Conservancy is applying for a grant from the state historic preservation office to do more detailed research on some of the more significant property.

"Historic resources are defined as buildings, structures, roads, monuments and other features found in the landscape that were at least 50 years old."

Her first slide was a township map with a numbered circle marking each resource except for a large circle in Dixboro where there were too many to mark individually.

"I have focused on the buildings and, of those, I have tried to include all of the houses older than 50 years. I also included churches, a few commercial buildings and a little bit about historic sites that are just fields today.

"I put together a data base on every structure that I identified. They are all organized by section number and an individual identification number. Information included came from field observations, previous surveys, various township histories and plat maps.

Photos by Ina Hanel

H. TOOKER-JOHN ROOKE HOUSE
The cruciform shape is unique in the township.

"I looked at aerial photos taken since the 1960s and sent out questionnaires to all residents asking information about their property. I received a lot of information from interviews with residents.

"I recorded the historic owner names, current names, architectural style, building material, construction date or approximation, if there were earlier structures on the site, , any known additions or subtractions, former use, current use, outbuildings, builder if known and any other bits of information.

"Finally, I decided I needed to evaluate which buildings might be more important. To minimize the arbitrariness of it, I set up a point scheme.

"I assigned degree of significance based on architectural integrity (not too many changes), historical significance (who lived there or if an event happened there), builder if known, if it's a work of craftsmanship rather than just a simple, quick structure, the age of the building and if it is unique to the township. Structures with five points were most significant.

"For the more significant properties I tried to find out who the owners were. I used a series of atlas maps and plat maps for Superior township from 1856 to 1991. That doesn't mean that there isn't an owner in between that I didn't pick up. Also, it doesn't necessarily indicate when the house was built because, in a number of cases, there was a house previous to the existing one."

She found a total of 215 historic resources. A map showed the number of historic resources in each section. Section 18 (Dixboro) and Section 9 (Frain's Lake) had the most, 21 each. Dixboro had nine considered significant resources and Frain's Lake, two. Most sections had three to ten resources, a few had none, particularly in the southeast part where residential development of Willow Run spilled over from Ypsilanti Township.

"That area was being developed in the 1940s and '50s and a lot of historic resources were lost.

She showed a plat map of original owners. Most properties were sold between 1825 and 1848. You could see quite a number of 40 acre farms in Section 16, whereas, in other sections most farms start at 80 acres. Proceeds from sale of Section 16 were set aside for schools in the Northwest Ordinance.

A map drawn by Tom Beauvais showed surveyor's notes such as heavily timbered areas versus oak openings and Indian trails. The notes dated from 1818 to 1840.

Curiously, only one farmstead was marked even though there were others. Marked was the Heidt farm on Curtis at Plymouth Road. The house style and barn with gambrel roof suggest that all the present buildings have replaced older ones, she said.

"In the large scale migration that happened in the 1830s-50s, a lot of the settlers who came to this township were born in New York or Michigan. A lot of them had roots in New England and ultimately in Great Britain.

"On the same graph spread out over the years they came, you can see that a lot of those from New York and those born in Michigan came starting in 1825. The majority came before the Civil War.

"I've also been working on a different kind of study in Freedom Township. The vast majority of the settlers there are of German origin. Only a small number are from New York, Ireland or elsewhere.

PRAY-WATSON GEER HOUSE

"L.L. Kimmel, son of Henry, the first German to come to Superior Township, lived in Section 23 near Harris and Vreeland Roads." L.L. is pictured in the 1881 Washtenaw County History.

"Henry Kimmel had first gone to Illinois from Pennsylvania before coming to Michigan. Henry, apparently inspired by the quality of the farm land, suggested the name 'Superior', as mentioned previously, when the township was formally incorporated in 1833.

"The Kimmels were very prosperous farmers and helped a number of settlers when they came, providing them with food and farming equipment until they could become established.

"It has been documented that the first settler in the township was Eldridge Gee who settled in Section 33 but he failed to formally purchase the land, so when the person who did buy it came, Mr. Gee was forced to leave.

"One source, Paul Peck, [in *Landsmen of Washtenaw County: An Atlas of the First Landowners of Washtenaw County, Michigan*] says Robert Geddes was the first purchaser of land in the township. Another source, John Geddes, Robert's brother, says Robert Fleming, was the first purchaser of land in the township.

Most land in the township was purchased between 1824 and 1827, with a second spurt in 1830-31.

"When the settlers came here they found the timbered forest and natural openings, two streams, Fleming Creek and the Huron River, and a few lakes." She showed a picture of Fleming Creek south of Dixboro where John Dix, an early settler, set up a saw mill.

"Superior was originally part of Ypsilanti Township. In 1828, what is now Superior and Salem Townships were parceled off from Ypsilanti and known as the Township of Panama. In 1833 Panama was split in half. The north half became Salem Township and the south half, Superior.

"The settlers met in the log cabin of John McCormick to form the Township of Panama. The cabin stood just east of the Arthur Covert house on Plymouth Road [6170] east of Vorhies, near the barn structures of today.

"Township meetings also were held at the farm of William Hiscock in the southwestern section of the township at Hickman and Vreeland Road.

DOUGLAS-NANRY HOUSE DOOR

"The old township hall is now sitting across the parking lot from the present one. It was constructed in 1874 right after Prospect Road was extended north of Ypsilanti to the middle section of the township, which was swampland.

"The old hall was originally built on the southwest corner, diagonally across the Prospect-Cherry Hill Road intersection. It was moved and became a storage building, then moved again to the new township hall site in 1986. It is now being used for various purposes.

"Architecture in the township pretty much covers the full span for this area. There are quite a number of Greek Revival style houses. The majority are what I call 'vernacular'--they do not have a specific architectural style. There are some Colonial Revival and bungalow style houses from the early 20th century."

She had a map showing remaining houses. Houses dating to pre-Civil War in her list are approximately 25 percent of those that stood in 1856 based on the 1856 plat map.

"One of the Greek Revival houses, the Kimmel-Lidke-Grosshans house at Harris and Vreeland Roads, shows up between the 1856 and 1864 plat maps.

"Greek Revival houses generally have a shallow-pitched roof, the front doorway often has sidelights and there may be small windows called frieze windows upstairs in one-and-a-half-story houses.

"The Greek Revival houses in Superior Township are often in the form called upright and wing--the front gable is the upright and the side gable section the wing.

"Often, but not always, the side gable section is the older part of the house. It might be a simple log cabin covered with wood. Sometimes the upright was built first and a wing added as more space was needed.

"But, usually, as the family established itself and had more money they would be able to build a fancier, larger house, often attached to the old one.

"Another upright and wing Greek Revival, the Brewer-Cole house on Gotfredson [3620] just north of Ford Road, shows up on an 1856 map.

"John Brewer purchased this property in 1825 so I suspect he started building it as early as 1830 and added on to it as he was able. E.M. Cole

owned it sometime after 1854 and lived there well into the 20th century. Cole was an officer of the Washtenaw County Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

"In the 1874 Washtenaw County atlas there are a number of drawings of these farm houses, primarily I think, for those farms where the owner contributed a little bit to the making of this atlas.

"The Cole farm is pictured with a fairly elaborate formal garden adjacent to the house. The land slopes there still today, but I have not seen any evidence of the garden remaining. I'm not sure if it was actually there. Sometimes these drawings were embellished to impress people.

"The John Gale house at the intersection of Ford and Berry Roads is another little Greek Revival upright and wing that is still standing.

"Another kind of Greek Revival house is the basilica style, locally known as the 'hen and chicks.' The Douglas-Nanry house on Plymouth Road [6595] east of Vorhies, built between 1856 and 1864, is an example.

"It was probably built by George Douglas, Sr., who purchased the property as early as 1825. Originally the family house was on the northeast corner of the property, this is on the south end.

"The 'hen' is the higher center portion that has spread her wings over her two chicks, one on either side. This form shows up primarily in Michigan and New York with a few in New England and as far west as Wisconsin.

"The front door has characteristic Greek Revival molding. The screen door probably dates from the late 19th century. The Nanry family, who came from Ireland, were the second owners of the house from the early 1860s to the late 1960s.

"There is a small stone Greek Revival style smoke house and a wood Greek Revival style outhouse in back. The latter has five seats. The smoke house is visible in the drawing which appears in the 1874 atlas.

"The remaining Greek Revival houses in the township are what we call side gable or front gable. The side gable Esek Pray-Watson Geer house [8755 West Ann Arbor Road] is one of the nicest in the township. It is a prominent landmark because it's so close to the road. It was probably built in the 1840s and it was used as a tavern.

Esek Pray, one of the first settlers, purchased the property in 1825. He was the first justice of the peace in the township for almost 25 years. He also participated in the state constitutional convention that enabled Michigan to become a state in 1837. His son, George, was a physician and Michigan legislator, also one of the first graduates of the University of Michigan.

"Some of the side-gable Greek Revival houses are not really recognizable today because of changes on the exterior. Frequently I would drive by a house and think that doesn't look older than 50 years only to find out that the old house is hidden inside.

"The Kimmel farmstead [2663 Harris] has been in the same family since they purchased the land in 1825. The house there, originally one-and-a-half-story, has been made into a full two story house and a porch added.

"Most buildings in Superior Township are made of wood. It was by far the most economical way to do it. Then, as people became more established, some houses were built of brick. The number of brick structures is much higher in Freedom Township. Stucco is not very common in Superior.

"The brick Philo Galpin house [6820 Plymouth Road] was built in approximately 1837. It is another one in the same ownership as the original family that came to this area from Ontario in 1832.

"The house represents sort of a transitional style between Greek Revival and the Italianate style that followed. It still has cornice returns but has decorative brackets under the eaves that are characteristic of the Italianate style. Many Italianate style houses were built of brick."

The Galpin house is on Plymouth Road just west of where the M-14 exit to Ford Road crosses.

"The brick J. Pray-Milton Geer-Clarence Barnes house, built sometime before 1856, probably in the early 1850s, has double brackets, a very nice cast iron rail on top and again cast iron trim wrapping around the porch.

"Another characteristic of the Italianate style is that windows start receiving arches over the top. Bay windows also start coming into fashion.

"This house is unique to the township--there is no other house like it in the township. One thing that is really neat about it is that so little has been done to change it. It's in Section 3 on Plymouth Road near where Berry road intersects.

"The person who built this was very interested in details. It is close to the road. As you drive by you can see all the little details. No expense was spared in constructing this house. I understand that on the second floor some of the original wall paper is still there.

"The H. Tooker-John Rooke house on Gotfredson Road [3385] south of Plymouth Road shows up on the plat map of 1856. It's another example of Italianate style. It has arched windows, brackets under the eaves and a little bit of cornice return.

"But, instead of being rectangular or upright and wing, it is a cruciform shape, something unique in this township. The Italianate houses built in this time reflect an era of increasing stability and wealth of the original owners and immediate descendants. Unlike Greek Revival, six of the eight Italianate structures in the township use brick, whether they were imported from Ypsilanti as supposedly these bricks were, or whether they were made on site.

"There is a drawing of this house in the 1874 county atlas. It too has received very little change. The only changes are in the back. The new owners are excited about it and want to put it on the state register of historic places.

"The Italianate style was also used

IT'S ALL IN WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO !

Ina Hanel agrees that the names of some roads depend on which end of the road you are on. To Ann Arborites it's Plymouth Road but to Plymouthites the same road is Ann Arbor Road and they each tend to think of it by that name all the way to the other town.

To the post offices, however, there is a dividing line. People east of Curtis Road, by post office address, live on West Ann Arbor Road, those west of Curtis live on Plymouth Road.

for some school buildings in the township. Frain's Lake School on Plymouth Road, right next to the lake, was built in 1872.

"Many brick schoolhouses are second generation, replacing older wood or log school buildings on the same site or right across the road.

"Geer Schoolhouse at Plymouth and Gotfredson Roads has Italianate arches on the windows and decorative brick work. The most elaborate one is in Dixboro. It was built in 1888. You look at these three school buildings and you can see how they got fancier with time.

"The Italianate style was also incorporated in using wood. The upright and wing Marsh-Hagler house on Ford Road [8660] now is a nursery. It was built or, at least, there was a structure on the site before 1856.

"This really is a simple, vernacular house but they used square porch columns, a few brackets and a little more prominent hood molding to evoke the Italianate style. This also has seen very few changes.

"Another architectural style as we progress down the 19th century is the Queen Anne. Some people associate this with the gingerbread idea with lots of decorative gables, fish scales and other kinds of imbrication on porches. This style was usually built in cities, not so much in the country.

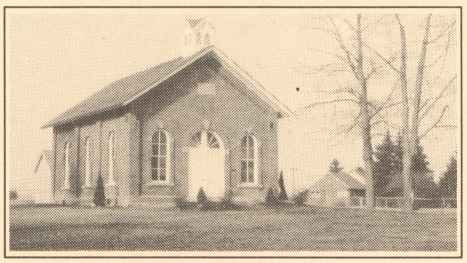
"The Root farm on Plymouth Road [9590] is a centennial farm. A house was built on the property before 1856 but the present house is not original because it's style, Queen Anne, didn't develop until the last quarter of the 19th century.

"There is another relatively simple Queen Anne style house on Plymouth Road just west of the Italianate Pray-Geer house. It has decorative detail on porches and gables.

"As we get into the 20th century, there are bungalows. There is an elaborate one on Cherry Hill Road at the east end of the township and county with a cobblestone chimney built by the present owner's grandfather who came from Scotland.

"In the early 20th century, houses started getting smaller compared to earlier farm houses. Many people were working in factories, not so much on farms. They didn't have servants and need extra room for them.

J. PRAY-MILTON GEER HOUSE



GEER SCHOOL

"Also in the early 20th century we have Colonial Revival style houses. Large porches came in and side wings, often incorporating a sun porch." She showed a simple Colonial Revival style house on Geddes Road.

"These bungalows and Colonial Revival style houses are what we call popular houses. In the early part of the 19th century people tended to build a little more traditionally. They looked to see what their parents had built rather than doing what was fashionable.

"Farmsteads--farm houses, barns and outbuildings and fields--are really the most direct link to Superior's past. Most of the township was farmed throughout the 19th century and a lot of these still remain with the exception of the southeastern corner where there has been a lot of development.

"On farmsteads most of the barns are clustered next to the house and form a barn yard. At the Voorhees-Knoll farm on Plymouth Road just west of Napier you can see barns, corn crib, a silo in the background. The chicken coop just burned last year.

"In this case there were two barn yards, one in the foregrounds separating the house from the barns. Behind was a second barn yard open only to the east and south, presumably to shelter the cattle from the north and west winds and storms.

"Silos are a late 19th-early 20th century structure. They did not come to this country until, I think, the early 1880s. They are disappearing rapidly. This particular farm had a spring house. Many farms had windmills to provide water.

"At the Staebler farm just east of Frain's Lake the farm buildings are clustered together but separated from the farm house by the main road.

"Some of the barns, particularly the gambrel roof barn, and silo are second generation. Some of the buildings, like the corn crib, were moved back from the road when Plymouth Road was paved.

"There were originally ten schoolhouses throughout the township. A lot of them were named or referred to by the name of the farmer on whose fields they were situated. Dixboro and Frain's Lake Schools were named for the places they were in.

"Dixboro, established in 1824 by John Dix, is the largest community that evolved in the township. The Dixboro General Store is probably the most prominent landmark today, along with the open square across from it, and the church.

"The Clement-Shrope-Barnes house, [5263 Plymouth Road] is characteristic of some of the houses built in Dixboro. It's a Greek Revival style upright and wing with cornice returns.

"Frain's Lake buildings consist primarily of early 20th century houses. Further east on Plymouth Road there was a Geer post office although there was never actually a town there."

Two other 'towns' were Panama and Superior. Her picture of 'downtown Panama' today showed a lonely gravel road, wooded on either side, with no sign of a building. It was on Gotfredson north of Ford Road.

"Panama was established in 1825 and in its heyday included one school, one church, a cemetery, a mill, a blacksmith shop and several houses."

Actually, there are two houses standing across from each other to the right and left of where she was standing when she took the "downtown Panama" picture, she said.

They are the Rooke-Drews house [3444 Gotfredson], a Greek Revival that has seen some early 20th century changes, and the Tooker-Rooke house [3385 Gotfredson], the cruciform Italianate brick she showed earlier.

The town of Superior was laid out long the Huron River off Superior Road. First Street still has its name. I think the people who laid this out visualized many more streets, but that never worked

out.

"This town had a paper mill and several houses. The houses still stand today. It was also home of the Superior Bank, one of the 'wild cat' banks that sprouted throughout the county in the 1830s.

"The William Geer house [9350 West Ann Arbor Road] was where the Geer Post Office was. It's a very simple one-and-a half story side-gable building, probably built in the 1830s or '40s. The post office served three sections." [A section is normally one square mile.]

Ms. Hanel showed a map indicating which post offices served different parts of the township in 1896 when there were Dixboro and Geer Post Offices operating in addition to Plymouth and Ypsilanti. Geer served sections 2,3 and 10. Dixboro served much of the northwest part, Plymouth the northeast corner sections and Ypsilanti the rest with some overlapping or perhaps two post offices served different parts of a single section.

An original blacksmith shop is one of the old commercial buildings standing today. It is across Cherry Hill Road from the Dixboro General Store.

"There are cooper shops and numerous saw and grist mills marked on the 1856 plat map. In the 20th century there are quite a few nurseries and produce farms.

"The church at Panama was known as the Free Church. It was built in 1855 and it was non-denominational. Next to this church was the Free Church Cemetery which exists today on Ford Road at Gotfredson.

"Other cemeteries in the township include small family cemeteries such as Pray Cemetery on Plymouth Road and Cross Cemetery on Clark Road at the south end of the township. Most prominent today is the Oak Grove Cemetery, Dixboro.

"Dixboro Methodist Episcopal Church was the second church in the township. It was built in 1858 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the only township building so listed.

"One of the earliest cemeteries is marked by six crosses in the yard of the George W. Gale-Vreeland house on Vreeland Road [5905]. They are still there today. The house has had a few changes including addition of dormers.

"The road names that you see and hear today were given these roads in the 20th century. Vreeland road takes its name from the Vreeland family who had a very large farm in the 1930s-'60s.

"Almost 40 percent of the road names that exist today are named after a farmer or settler who lived on that road. Another 20 percent or so are named for the place they go to--Cherry Hill Road, Plymouth Road.

"Another quarter of them I characterize as regional like Joy Road and Ford Road that cut across several townships.

"Six or eight houses are attributed to have been built in the earlier 20th century by Harry Bennett. He was Henry Ford's right hand man and personal guard.

"He built the house known as 'the Castle' along the Huron river in the southwest part of the township. He also built hunting lodges at 2944 and 2820 Stommel Road. They are hidden from passersby by the landscape.

"Henry Ford purchased a lot of land on the east side of the township. The Ford Motor Company still operates what they call Cherry Hill Farm today on Gotfredson Road. It is a large open area. Four or five old farm houses were removed."

"There are a number of suburbs in the southeast part of the township which are somewhat related to the automobile industry, mainly around the Willow Run area."

"The development is ongoing, she said, and it has an impact on nearby land. As the land gets more valuable, the old houses become less valuable and fall into disrepair.

She plotted out the sections with the most historic resources that she found and suggested they might be potential historic districts to study further as a way of saving some of the township's natural and historic features.

Marcia McCrary, a township resident and president of the county genealogy society, volunteered that Gotfredson Road is named for Benjamin Gotfredson who owned land along it and manufactured trucks in Detroit and Windsor. She has done a great deal of research on him.

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS LAUNCHED 51 YEARS AGO, ALICE ZIEGLER COMPLETES 20 YEARS AS EDITOR

Old WCHS minutes reveal that *Washtenaw Impressions* was launched 51 years ago in 1943 to publish papers presented by speakers to the Society in lieu of publishing a new county history which seemed too big an undertaking.

Geneva Smithe, WCHS secretary, who was also secretary by occupation to WCHS Past-President Dr. Carl Guthe at the University Natural History Museum, served as editor until 1955 when Lela Duff became editor.

Miss Duff, a former Ann Arbor High School English teacher, was later author of a charming book, *Ann Arbor Yesterdays*. When Miss Duff was no longer able to do it in 1970, it lapsed.

From June 1973-June 1974 WCHS members Lydia and Ralph Muncy and Ethelyn Morton produced *Washtenaw Historical Society News.*

Under the aegis of President Hazel Proctor, the *Impressions* was revived in the fall of 1974 and the present editor asked to serve, after a former colleague of the editor's at the *Ann Arbor News,* Helen Brady Mann, referred them to her.

With the October issue, the editor completed 20 years. During those years the Society celebrated its 125th anniversary in November 1982 and a long frustrating quest for a museum is on the verge of becoming reality now at 500 North Main Street.

In Miss Smithe's and Miss Duff's days the *Impressions* was mimeographed. Since 1974 it has been printed and that technology has changed considerably.

For several years Ann Arbor Federal Savings and Loan (now Great Lakes Bancorp) and Drury, Lacy Advertising, Inc., donated printing and typesetting services. (Thomas F. Lacy, a partner in the latter firm, followed Mrs. Proctor as WCHS President 1975-77.) Since then several different commercial typesetters and printers have been hired.

Until recent years type was set in long galleys and had to be cut and pasted into page forms or *"keylined."* Anna Thorsch and Lawrence Ziegler were long time volunteer keyliners. Others were Dorothy Wood, Debbie Signorelli and Justyna Curtis.

With the coming of computers and desk top publishing the editor *"sets"* the type, delivers it on a disk to a graphics firm that puts it in page form. After proofing it goes to the printer. Then the corresponding secretary and her assistant prepare the newsletters for mailing to all members and others. Geneva Smithe did that herself and so did Lela Duff until she appealed for a mailing committee.

It has been a great 20 years for the editor who has made many wonderful friends, learned a bit about local history and received many encouraging, complimentary words, not the least of which was the Preservationist of the Year Award last May from the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission.

(This story is based on an interview of the editor by Esther Warzynski who has done several oral history interviews of persons associated with the Kellogg-Warden house, our museum to be.)

IT WAS NEWS IN 1894

According to the *Ann Arbor Argus*, January 5, 1894:

Ann Arbor was putting in sewers and two men died in a trench cave in. Ann Arbor also had a paid fire department.

"Herman Hutzel has purchased the Ann Arbor Brick and Tile Works which are located at Leland" [near Earhart and Northfield Church Roads].

The Ann Arbor and Lodi Plank Road Company met.

Prof. A. TenBrook gave a lecture.

Susan B. Anthony was to lecture in the Ann Arbor student lecture series.

"Jacob Schlimmer of Chelsea asks a divorce on the ground that his wife gets drunk...Another man over that way, named Allen Stephens, asks to be legally separated from Lucy, because, against his will and contrary to his protest, she has acquired the horrible habit of teaching country school."

ARTIFACTS TO DONATE? CALL NANCY MCKINNEY

Anyone wishing to donate an artifact to WCHS should contact Nancy McKinney, collections chairman, at 665-5171 or by mail, 1104 West Madison, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The Society welcomes donations that fit into our museum's mission and storage space limitations.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are: individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple (one 60+), $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

'WHAT IS IT?' GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS, GROUPS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts, set up as a humorous *"What Is It"* game to schools for children and another for adults. They are available for classes and meetings, subject to volunteer availability. Information: Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

ARGUS PROJECTORS, CRAZY QUILT, DR. CHASE BOOK, OLD AXE, 4-H RIBBON AMONG GIFTS TO WCHS

Locally made Argus projectors and a crazy quilt are among recent donations of artifacts to WCHS.

Calvin Foster, who worked many years for Argus Camera Company in Ann Arbor, gave three Argus movie and slide projectors, two in the case, one in an original box, plus a camera filter and two employee booklets, *"Welcome to Argus"* and *"My Share in Argus."*

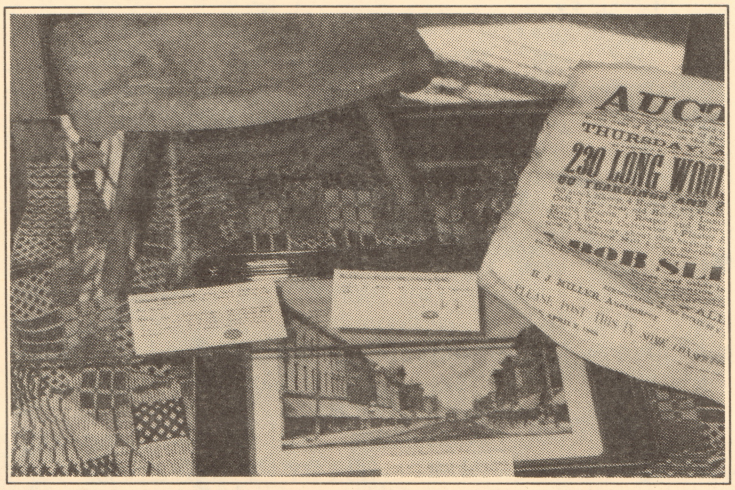
Mrs. Harold Wethey has given a crazy quilt which she is holding temporarily for us.

The late Circuit Court Judge James R. Breakey, Jr., saved two wooden spindles from the old Courthouse stairway and gave them to the Ypsilanti Historical Society which, in turn has given them to WCHS.

Arthur French of the Board gave a little Eberbach Pharmacy prescription box. It is white with blue trim.

Jan Carroll Azary gave a copy of a Dr. Chase book, Ann Arbor's one-time best seller.

Virginia Denham gave a 1926 group photo of the Eberbach School student body.



Part of the current WCHS exhibit in the Washtenaw County Administration Building (old Post Office) lobby.

A second place red rosette ribbon awarded a 4-H horse club member at the 1965 4-H spring roundup was given by Vice-President Susan Wineberg.

Jo Shuman, a former Ann Arborite who had found an old axe in her house, gave it to WCHS before she moved away.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS INVOLVE CHRISTMAS SINGS, TREES, WALK, OPEN HOUSE, EVEN 'BELSCHNICKELS'

Chelsea Historical Society: Candy and bake sale in conjunction with crafts show at Depot, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, December 3. Decorations will include a Victorian style Christmas tree.

Dexter Society: Christmas bazaar, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, December 3 at the museum, 3443 Inverness. Christmas Sing, 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 9, at museum.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. November 15 at Blacksmith Shop, 324 E. Main. Program: *"The Story of a House."*

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17, at Salem Township Hall. Local storyteller Ruth Burr will entertain.

Saline Society: Christmas Walk Sunday, December 4, 1-7 p.m., originating at the Saline 'Rec" Center, 1866 Woodland Drive, where there will be food, entertainment and $4 tickets.

The walk will be one-quarter mile to tour the adobe brick Tefft-Greb House, 1880 Textile Road, which will be decorated for Christmas. Two vans will transport those who cannot walk that far.

The society will sponsor an antique show January 20-21 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. Monday, November 14 at Liz & Paul Kleinschmidt home, 4922 Webster Church Road. Paul has built an authentic small scale replica of the log cabin near Manchester that his family once lived in. He will show and tell about it.

Gloria Brigham who collects *"belschnickels"* will talk about them and other German Christmas ornaments at the December 12 meeting at Dave & Linda Chapman's, 3430 North Zeeb Road.

Scott Kunst of Ann Arbor will talk about historic landscapes at the January 9 meeting at the home of Dave and Gerry Calhoun, 3290 W. North Territorial Road.

Ypsilanti Society: The newly remodeled children's room will be open to view at the Christmas open house, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, December 4, at the museum, 220 North Huron. Victorian style decorations will include a Christmas tree with all handmade decorations typical of the 19th century.

GIFTS, PLEDGES TO WCHS CAPITAL FUND DRIVE REACH $33,035 TO DATE, PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES

Gifts and pledges to date in the $200,000 capital fund drive to restore and run the Museum on Main Street, *"A Museum of County Life,"* total $33,035, WCHS President Patricia Austin announced.

That includes a major gift of $25,000 from Board member Elizabeth Dusseau to sponsor a room. She chose the permanent exhibit room and becomes a member of the exclusive Kellogg-Warden Society.

Other categories of giving have been designated as Washtenaw Society, $10,000; Huron, $5,000; Guardian of Local History, $1,000; Amity, $500; Pioneer, $250; Main Street, $100; and other gifts, up to $99.

While donors of $100 and more have been designated members of various societies and will receive a thank you gift, any amount that readers can contribute is greatly appreciated and will be recorded in our memory book.

Following is a list of those who have contributed to the current capital fund drive started last summer. (It is not a complete list of all museum donors of recent years.)

Kellogg-Warden Society:	Elizabeth Dusseau
Huron Society:	William & Patricia Austin
Amity Society:	Edwards Brothers, Inc. Elizabeth Kennedy
Pioneer Society:	Mr. & Mrs. Lyndon Welch
Main Street Society:	Norm and Gail Bauer Lars Bjorn Carol Bradley Sally & Ian Bund Dr. Ruth Cantieny John Debbink Jean Ledwith King Robert Lytle, Jr. Frederick C. Matthaei Nancy McAllister Mr. & Mrs. Charles Metzner Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Miller, Jr. Wendy Raeder Maya Savarino Dr. & Mrs. F.S. Van Reesema Mr. & Mrs. George Wild
Other Gifts:	Barbara Bowen Margaret Koykka Cowin James & Mary Dolan Mr. & Mrs. Jack Elzay Mrs. Patrick Mitchell Mr. & Mrs. P.L. Olson

CHRISTMAS SING SET SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Our friends from Western Kiwanis will sponsor their 20th annual Christmas sing at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, November 27, in the Michigan Theater. It is free of charge.

Besides audience sing along, Don Haller will play the Barton organ, Fr. Alex Miller will read *"The Night Before Christmas,"* and the St. Francis of Assisi children's choir will sing. Santa, too, will visit.

We are grateful to Western Kiwanis volunteers who painted the picket fence around the Museum on Main Street.

CAN YOU HELP PREPARE A TIME CAPSULE?

WCHS has been invited to prepare a time capsule to go in the cornerstone of a new building to be erected early in 1995 at the northwest corner of Main and William Streets by Brian Connelly and Partners.

President Patricia Austin asks for suggestions of appropriate things to include and volunteers to help. Please call her at 662-9092 where she is taking WCHS calls.

The site, going backwards in time, has been occupied by Civic Theater, the Elks Club and the William Maynard home.

UNSOLVED MYSTERY

WCHS has its own unsolved mystery. Some years ago Esther Warzynski of the Board purchased a portable loud speaker for the Society which seems to have disappeared. If anyone knows where it is please call Pat Austin, 662-9092

MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE?

Readers, please check your mailing label. The top line will tell if your 1994 membership is expiring. Those members will find a renewal notice/membership form and return envelope enclosed with this month's *Impressions*. Questions? Call Pauline Walters, membership chair at 663-2379.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Louisa Pieper, 996-3008
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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

'ANN ARBOR RAILROAD • PART II'

2:00 P.M. • SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 1994

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Ann Arbor Public Library
343 South Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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